

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A method of detecting alert conditions in a plurality of networked computer systems ~~market~~ comprising:

receiving a message in one of the plurality of networked computer systems ~~a system~~ for a new quote for a trading item;

comparing the new quote to one or more existing quotes for the same item; and

transmitting an alert message in response to comparing if the new quote causes a locked or crossed market condition.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the alert message is responsive to crossing quotes having prices differences greater than a preselected threshold amount.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the existing quotes are inside quotes.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

updating one of the inside quotes in the one of the plurality of networked computer systems ~~system~~ in response to the new quote being one of a higher bid quote and a lower ask quote.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein comparing further comprises:

determining whether the received alert message is a duplicate of an earlier received message; and

wherein transmitting is responsive to the received alert message not being a duplicate.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 the trading item a security.

Claims 7-52 (withdrawn)

53. (Presently amended) A method comprising:

in a network of interconnected computer systems, receiving a message in a network server for a new quote for a trading item;

comparing the new quote to existing quotes for the same trading item; and

generating an alert if the new quote is determined to represent ~~a usual~~ an unusual quote value.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 further comprising transmitting the generated alert.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 in which the trading item is a security.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 in which the existing quotes are inside quotes.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 further comprising updating one of the inside quotes in response to the new quote being one of a higher bid quote and a lower ask quote.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57 in which comparing further comprises determining whether the received message of an earlier received message.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58 in which generating is responsive to the received message not being a duplicate.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 in which the usual quote value represents a locked market condition.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 in which the locked market condition occurs when an inside ask and bid quotes for the trading item are equal.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 in which the usual quote value represents a crossed market condition.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62 in which the crossed market condition occurs when an inside bid quote is greater than an inside ask quote for the trading item.

64. (Presently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for detecting alert conditions in a plurality of networked computer systems market, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

- receive a message for a new quote for a trading item;
- compare the new quote to one or more existing quotes for the same item; and
- transmit an alert message in response to comparing if the new quote causes a locked or crossed market condition.

65. (Previously presented) The product of claim 64 in which the existing quotes are inside quotes.

66. (Previously presented) The product of claim 65 further comprising:

update one of the inside quotes in response to the new quote being one of a higher bid quote and a lower ask quote.

67. (Presently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for detecting alert conditions in a plurality of networked computer systems market, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

- receive a message in a network server for a new quote for a trading item;
- compare the new quote to existing quotes for the same trading; and
- generate an alert if the new quote is determined to represent an ~~usual~~ unusual quote value.

68. (Previously presented) The product of claim 67 further comprising:
transmit the generated alert.